TRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) The Government announces Minimum Support Prices for principal crops including groundnut, rapeseed-mustard, sunflower, soyabean, safflower and toria among oilseeds and gram, arhar, moong and urad among pulses. These prices are announced every season taking into consideration changes in the cost of production and all other relevant factors to ensure, remunerative prices to the cultivators.

Drinking water for Delhi

2327. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi is presently being supplied 100 million gallon of drinking water which is short of the demand;

(b) whether it is also a fact that almost 18 per cent of the Delhi population are not getting water while nearly one-fifth of the population is not getting regular and adequate water supply;

(c) if so, what is the annual percentage of rise in the demand of drinking water during the last three years (year-wise) and what is the actual percentage of water supplied daily as against the requirement; and

(d) what is the anticipated rise in the demand of water by the end of the century stating the measures taken to augment the water supply sources to meet the requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) At present, water supply in Delhi is 404 mgd against the assessed requirement of 472 mgd.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

(d) The requirement of water is expected to increase to 896 mgd by 2001 A.D. for an assessed population of 112 lakhs. As the ground water sources in Delhi are not adequate, a few raw water sources have been identified in the neighbouring States and efforts are being made to get their commitment for release of additional raw water.

Excise duty on ingots produced by Mini Steel Plants

2328. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether excise duty on ingots produced by the Mini steel plants in the country had been progressively increased since 1980, if so, the year-wise details thereof and reasons therefor;

(b) whether import duty on melting scrap sponge iron, hot briquetted iron had also gone up progressively since 1980, if so, year-wise details thereof and reasnos therefor; and

(c) what were the landed cost in rupees per tonne of melting scrap including duty in the year 1980 and 1987, taking into consideration the above duties and foreign exchange variations?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) Rate of excise duty on ingots produced by mini steel plants and custom duty applicable on import of melting scrap etc. for use by Electric Arc Furnaces from 1980-81 to March, 1987 is given in the attached Statement. (*See* below). Rate of excise duty on ingots and custom duty on imported scrap for use by Electric Arc Furnaces is fixed keeping in view the cost structure of these units.

(c) Landed cost of melting scrap in 1980 was Rs. 1560/- per tonne and in 1987, Rs. 1960/- per tonne.

Statement

Custom duty % ad valorem

Year	Excise Duty in Rs./ Tonne	Melting Scrap	Sponge Iron	HBI
1980-81 . . .	220	Nil	Nil	Nil
1981-82	220	Nil	Nil	Nil
1982-83	220	5	Nil	Nil
1983-84	220	70	Nil	Nil
1984-85	220	15	Nil	Nil
1985-86	315	15	25	30
1986-87	315	*25 (upto Dec. 86) 20 (after Dec. 86)		30 (upto Dec. 86) 20 (after Dec. 86)
March 1987 . . .	365	20	20	20

*For Scrap and Sponge Iron.

Rise in prices of Black pepper

@2329. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of black pepper has risen quite substantially during the last two years;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what was the production of black pepper during the years 1984, 1985 and 1986;

(c) whether Government are taking any steps to increase the production of black pepper in the country;

(d) whether it is a fact that businessmen are hoarding the Black Pepper and creating artificial scarcity just to increase the price of Black Pepper; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to reduce the prices of black pepper in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) Wholesale prices of black pepper generally recorded increases during 1985-86 because of fall in production in the year 1984-85. However, from November, 1986 onwards there has been a perceptible fall in prices of black pepper.

The All-India Production of black pepper which stood at 22.7 thousand tonnes in 1983-84 decreased to 18.2 thousand tonnes in 1984-85, but increased to the peak level of 30.4 thousand tonnes in 1985-86.

(c) A number of steps are being taken to increase the production of black pepper. These include production and distribution of rooted cuttings of high yielding pepper varieties; establishment of model gardens for high yielding pepper varieties; distribution of input kits and sprayers to small and marginal farmers; field demonstration of pepper and rehabilitation of pepper gardens.

(d) There are no reports of withholding of stocks of black pepper by traders on a large scale.

(e) The measures taken to give a boost to the production of black pepper in the country are expected to have a salutary effect on prices.

@Previously Unstarred Question 1655 transferred from 5th May, 1987